



**GREENFIRE  
LAW, PC**

CHELSEA LINSLEY  
1202 OREGON STREET  
BERKELEY, CA 94702  
PHONE: 253.327.3294  
EMAIL: [clinsley@greenfirelaw.com](mailto:clinsley@greenfirelaw.com)  
[WWW.GREENFIRELAW.COM](http://WWW.GREENFIRELAW.COM)

November 29, 2017

via Online Request

<https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/request/createRequest>

Environmental Protection Agency  
National Freedom of Information Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2822T)  
Washington, DC 20460

**Re: FOIA REQUEST  
Mercury Linked to Skin-Lightening Products**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, on behalf of the Center for Environmental Health, 2201 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612. This request arises from concerns regarding various skin-lightening creams containing mercury.

The requested records will be used to educate the public and raise awareness about potential exposures to harmful chemicals in consumer products and enforce consumer protection laws. Because of the public benefit, a fee waiver is appropriate

**REQUESTED RECORDS**

I am writing to request any and all records related to the following:

- Any EPA investigation into the mercury content of skin-lightening products from 2005 to the present.
- Any record pertaining to availability of mercury-added cosmetic products from online sources.
- Any investigation into skin-lightening products sold on Amazon.com from 2005 to the present.
- Any communications with Amazon.com, its agents or employees regarding the sale or import of skin-lightening products containing or potentially containing mercury.
- Any communications with Amazon.com, its agents or employees regarding the Proposed Reporting Requirements under section 8(b)(10)(D) of the Toxic Substances Control Act regarding mercury inventory posted October 26, 2017.

The term "record" includes, but is not limited to, all test results, lab reports, memoranda, studies, reports, documents, data, correspondence, comments, conversation records, files, margin notes, public notices, staff notes, surveys, public comments, intra- and inter-agency communications, consultations, meeting notes, minutes, electronic mail records, phone notes, or other similar materials. If there are no documents responsive to this request, please so state.

If the requested documents are available electronically, you may send them to [clinsley@greenfirelaw.com](mailto:clinsley@greenfirelaw.com), post them in a Dropbox file, or send them on a CD or thumb drive to:

Chelsea Linsley, Esq.  
Greenfire Law, PC  
1202 Oregon Street  
Berkeley, CA 94702

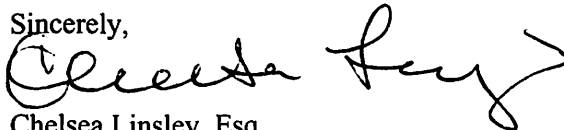
If documents exist as electronic files, please forward them in their native format, if accessible by Adobe, Microsoft Word, Excel, or Outlook. If electronic versions of any documents are unavailable, please send paper copies to me at this same Berkeley address.

#### **FEE WAIVER REQUEST**

In addition, we respectfully request that you waive all applicable fees for CEH's request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 21 C.F.R § 20.46(a). CEH is a non-profit, non-commercial organization that works to promote business products and practices that are safe for public health and the environment. CEH works in partnership with other effective organizations, public health experts, community groups, academics, and public officials to, among other things, educate consumers about products that contain harmful chemicals. Please visit <http://www.ceh.org/> for more information about CEH, its mission, and its achievements. The release of the requested information is in the public interest because it will significantly contribute to the public's understanding of potential exposures to dangerous chemicals in consumer products. See 21 C.F.R § 20.46(a)(1). Also, the requested information will not be used for any commercial interest. See 21 C.F.R § 20.46(a)(2). Accordingly, we request a waiver of any applicable fees for this request. However, if you decide not to waive any fees associated with the request, please contact me to provide an estimate of the fees prior to incurring them.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you anticipate any delay for valid legal reasons in processing this request, please notify me as soon as possible. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chelsea Linsley", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Chelsea Linsley, Esq.  
cc Michael Green, Caroline Cox  
Center for Environmental Health